



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/538,113	06/08/2005	Zhun Zhong	US020553	8864
24737 7590 04/01/2008 PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510				
EXAMINER				
TRAN, PABLO N				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2618				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/01/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/538,113

Applicant(s)

ZHONG, ZHUN

Examiner

Pablo N. Tran

Art Unit

2618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-17 and 23-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 18-21 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 22 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-8 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrus et al. (6,993,334).

As per claims 1 and 18, Ogier et al. disclosed a method for minimizing a communication service disruption period during a handoff of a mobile station in a wireless local area network (WLAN), wherein providing a plurality of APs in the network with an assigned channel of operation and a pre-configured nearest-neighbor table comprised of records transmitting said pre-configured nearest-neighbor table from said plurality of APs to associated STAs, and performing a prioritized search by said STA by first searching in each of said nearest neighbor AP's channel of operation as identified in said transmitted nearest-neighbor table to locate at least one candidate AP to form a new association with in said handoff (fig. 3, fig. 4, col. 9/ln. 3-col. 11/ln. 25).

Andrus et al. does not specifically suggest that each record of the neighbor AP's list be partition into fields, wherein at least a first field identifying a nearest neighbor AP and a second field identifying said nearest neighbor AP's channel of operation. However, such is notoriously well known in the art that the examiner takes Official

Notice of such. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate such signaling method, well known, to Andrus et al. system in order to easily recognize operational channels of nearest Access points to save time and avoid impair channels during handoff.

As per claim 2, the modified system of Andrus et al. further disclosed sequentially searching those remaining channels of operation in said network not included in the table in the case where the at least one candidate AP (col. 9/ln. 3-col. 11/ln. 25).

As per claims 3, 5-6, 19 and 20-21, the modified system of Andrus et al. does not specifically suggest the signaling via a modified probe response frame, a modified beacon frame, a dedicated AP channel announcement management frame. However, such is notoriously well known in the art that the examiner takes Official Notice of such. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate such signaling method, well known, to Andrus et al. system in order to convey AP's channels of operation in an organized manner to save time during handoff.

As per claim 7, the modified system of Andrus et al. does not specifically suggest such signaling method of broadcasting to a BSS or unicast to a particular STA in the BSS. However, such is notoriously well known in the art that the examiner takes Official Notice of such. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate such signaling method, well known, to Andrus et al. system in order to save system's resource wherein transmitting the message to the particular BSS that supports the STA.

As per claim 8, the modified system of Andrus et al. does not specifically suggest the dedicated AP channel announcement management frame is representing as bitmap. However, such is notoriously well known in the art that the examiner takes Official Notice of such. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate such signaling method, well known, to Andrus et al. system in order to convey AP's channels of operation in an organized manner to save time during handoff.

3. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the modified system of Andrus et al. (6,993,334) and further in view of Korpela et al. (6,510,146).

As per claim 4, the modified system of Andrus et al. does not specifically suggest the STA send the. However, Korpela et al. disclose such step of the mobile device requesting the list (col. 9/ln. 35-38). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate such method, as taught by Korpela et al., to Andrus et al. system in order to maintain an active data transfer connection.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 9 and 22 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pablo Tran whose telephone number is (571)272-7898. The examiner normal hours are 9:30 -5:00 (Monday-Friday). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Urban, can be reached at (571)272-7899. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)273-8300.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) System. Status information for Published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-directauspto.gov>. Should You have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 27, 2008

/Pablo N Tran/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2618